

## A DARING OPERATION.

French Surgeons Attempt to Clean a Man's Heart and Kill the Patient.

American surgeons have the credit of being among the most daring in their experiments, but they do not beat the French. What do you think of an attempt to clean a man's heart? This is what was attempted a short time since here in France. This is a true story I am telling you—no invention. Two surgeons actually set to work to open a man's chest for the purpose of getting at and cleaning his heart.

Joseph Davenne, an upholsterer, had been suffering for many years from fatty degeneration of the heart. The poor man knew that he had not long to live, yet he was only forty-eight years of age, and saw no reason why he should die yet. Moreover the doctors told him they thought they might possibly cure him. They persuaded him that at least he would be doing an invaluable service to science, and that he was bound to die soon at any rate if nothing was done, whereas this might prove the means of curing thousands of sufferers beside himself.

"And so," the story is gravely told in a French medical journal from which I translate, "poor M. Davenne consented to place himself under their hands."

Then comes a lot of technical description of the operation, which was performed under water while the patient was in a condition of anesthesia. I won't give all these scientific words; it is quite unnecessary to tell in scientific language how the cuticle was removed, the pectoral muscles carefully dissected from the ribs, the cartilaginous junctions of the ribs and sternum disconnected, and the heaving lungs in their delicate, shining, covering membranes exposed to view.

Up to this point the patient still lived. The heart, however, had not yet been reached. However, to the two French surgeons this was a mere detail which their knives would speedily overcome. They did overcome this mere detail very rapidly. In less than a minute more one of them had M. Davenne's heart in his hand, and was busily engaged scraping from its surface the adipose deposit with which it was covered, and which so impeded its proper action.

"Hold on a moment!" exclaimed the surgeon, "the man is dead!"

And so he was. Dead as the door nail which Dickens has made proverbial.

How they could have expected anything else is not recorded. They had, however, taken the precaution to have M. Davenne sign, seal and deliver a paper to the effect that the operation was performed entirely at his own risk, and that no person but himself was to be held in any way whatever responsible for his death, should it occur.

The surgeons had the assurance to send to the medical journal a full report of the case and of the operation; no one has, as yet, called them to account for their foolhardiness, and they do not say what they certified as the cause of the man's death.—N. Y. World.

## FOND OF LEATHER.

A Porcupine Eats Up the Bellows in a Blacksmith Shop.

Although the "fretful porcupine" is almost unknown in Orange County, the curious creature is quite numerous in the wooded districts of Sullivan, Ulster and Delaware counties.

One of the porcupine's peculiarities is its inordinate fondness for leather, which it seems to think one of the daintiest of tid-bits, and it not infrequently happens that one of them, if it gets a chance at a set of harness, will destroy it in a single night, and many a trout fisherman, who has left his water-soaked boots or shoes out of doors at night, has risen in the morning to find them chewed to pieces by a porcupine's sharp teeth.

It is not often, however, that these animals enjoy such a feast as the one which lives somewhere in the vicinity of Jim Gibbons' blacksmith shop at Stockport, Delaware County, has partaken of, for twice within a year, the last time but a few days ago, the "pesky critter" has entered his shop and eaten up his bellows. Any one who has seen a blacksmith's bellows know how much leather there is in one of them, and when, as happened last week, the porcupine, in a single night, ate up more than half of one, it will be seen that he had, indeed, a sumptuous feast and must have been fairly gorged with leather.—Midland (N. Y.) Argus.

## THE BIRDS LOVE HIM.

A Queer Character Who is on Friendly Terms with the Denizens of the Air.

There is a "sandwich man" in Brooklyn whose "beat" is on City Hall square. Although fierce of mien and unprepossessing in make-up, and having apparently but few friends among human beings, yet he is not friendless. His nearest and dearest friends are doves and pigeons. At almost all hours of the day they hover around him, picking up crumbs that he does out sparingly from his meager store of food.

It is a pretty sight, and scores of people frequently pause to gaze upon it. Some of the birds are beautifully marked. Before alighting they circle gracefully around the "sandwich man," waiting for his signal to come to luncheon. This signal, which seems to be a sudden extension of the right arm, is thoroughly understood by the feathered beauties, for the instant it is given they flock about the unkempt and ragged man. In and out between his feet they waddle, picking up the crumbs in the most fearless fashion, while others perch themselves proudly upon his shoulders and take morsels of bread and crackers from his fingers.

One dove, white as snow, is the star of the impromptu show. It has been trained to take the food on the fly, for as the "sandwich man" tossed a bit of cracker in the air the dove flies up and catches it before it falls.

The exhibition is usually at its height toward evening.—N. Y. Herald.

Teacher—"Tommy, you may explain the difference between wages and salary." Tommy—"The man that draws a salary has to spend most of it for clothes or lose his job."—Indianapolis Journal.

## ANIMAL EXTINCTION.

The Different Species Which Are Rapidly Disappearing from the Earth.

A startling publication is issued by the Smithsonian Institution, which shows that many of the most valuable species of animals at present inhabiting the world will inevitably be driven off the face of the earth and rendered absolutely extinct within a few years to come. For example, the elephant is already doomed. Each year 100,000 of these pachyderms are slaughtered to supply the market with ivory. Up to within a comparatively recent period commerce drew chiefly upon the great stores of "dead" ivory in possession of the African natives, which had accumulated for centuries; but now this reserve stock has been exhausted, and all the tusks exported from the dark continent must be got "green" by hunting live elephants. Thus the herds are being rapidly wiped out, not to mention the incidental fact, according to Explorer Stanley, that every pound of ivory that reaches Europe costs the life of a man, woman or child, while every twenty tusks are secured at the price of an entire district, with all its people, villages and plantations. This, of course, is due to the intimate connection which exists between the ivory gathering business and the slave trade. You will get some notion of what 100,000 elephants mean if you will consider that, placed in line, that number would stretch 180 miles. As for the slaves, they are secured for the purpose of carrying big ivory to the coast by the Arabs, who attack and destroy the native villages, carrying off into captivity those of the inhabitants who are serviceable as porters, and killing the rest. In this way whole regions in Africa have been depopulated and laid waste.

It is fashion, however, that is most importantly responsible for the threatened extinction of animals well worth preserving. To prove this statement, reference is made to a single recent auction sale in London, at which were disposed of, under the hammer, 30,000 monkey skins, 250,000 Australian opossum skins, 400,000 humming birds' skins, 6,000 skins of birds of paradise, and 300,000 assorted birds' skins from India. In all the collections in the world, public and private, there does not exist so many birds' skins, stuffed or otherwise, as the total of these amounts to. Evidently the beautiful birds of the earth must go, and Australian opossums and monkeys have no show whatever. One dealer last year sold 2,000,000 skins of birds.

Every one knows by this time that the fur seals are also doomed. Having been altogether exterminated from the rookeries of the Southern seas, where they used to congregate in such countless myriads, they are now being wiped off from their last resting place on the two Pribylov islands in Behring sea by remorseless pirates in schooners who kill ten for every one they get. A like fate awaits the hair seal, 875,000 of which were slain last year for leather and oil. Even the alligators, crocodiles and other reptiles are not spared. Even they must disappear, because their hides are wanted for reticules, pocket-books and other "fancy articles." Man—more particularly the Caucasian—is the most destructive of animals. His appetite for killing is insatiable, and to this mere taste for slaughter for its own sake the marked and rapid changes at present being wrought in the fauna of the world are largely attributable. Among the valuable beasts now swiftly succumbing to the sportsman's rifle is the true zebra, which is confined at this moment to a small area in South Africa, while the giraffe is quickly disappearing from the same cause. Let loose a white man with an equipment of improved weapons in the wilds, and he will call it "sport" to slay wantonly everything that he can get a pop at—not for food, but simply for the sake of taking away life. Mind you, it has been left for civilization to thoroughly develop this type of savagery. The only parrot known to this country, which was formerly plentiful as far north as Kansas, is now being finally extirpated in Florida by visitors who kill the birds for "sport." They are naturally tame, and it is easy enough to knock over half a dozen at one bang. They are not good to eat, but then they make such a pretty mark for a gun.

A while ago the so-called passenger pigeon flew by millions in the Ohio valley and as far East as Massachusetts. Now but a very few of them are left. They have been shot by wholesale, and while they lasted were commonly utilized by shooting from traps. It is great sport to take a pigeon that has been captured in a net, put him in a box and pop the poor creature at short range when he flies out at a signal, with about one chance in fifty for his life. In this way useful animal after animal is being driven to extinction. The list of those which civilized man has driven off the earth where God is supposed to have put them for His use will be an appalling thing to think upon a short time hence. Wherever a valuable beast is found in great and profitable numbers the first thought seems to be to go in and wipe it out. This is particularly a Caucasian instinct.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

A pretty fan was presented to a little girl four years of age, and she, wishing to show her new treasure, hung it on her finger and held it out at arm's length. A lady on entering the parlor was attracted by the peculiar attitude of the little girl, and finally said to her: "Isn't it very fatiguing to hold out your arm in that way so long?" Said little Elsie in answer, with a deep sigh: "Isn't it always fatiguing to be elegant?"—Boston Budget.

Ivory may be bleached by placing it for an hour in a solution of alum; then polish it with a piece of woolen and wrap it in linen to dry. Another method is to take peroxide of hydrogen, and to one pint of it add one ounce of ammonia. Warm it and soak the ivory in it for twenty-four hours; then dry and polish with chalk.

## FOREIGN GOSSIP.

—It is estimated that 90,000 pianofortes are manufactured every year in London.

—There are more than 40,000 mud cabins in Ireland, consisting of but a single room.

—The Geographical Institute in Weimar estimates that German Africa contains 955,000 square kilometers. All European Germany contains approximately 540,000 square kilometers.

—The French Minister of War lately offered a prize for the swiftest bird in a flight from Perigueux to Paris, 310 miles. There were 2,746 entries, and the winner did the distance in 7 hours and 34 minutes.

—In Tepe-Kermeno, an ancient town in Crimea, a platinum coin has been found bearing the image of Antiochus of Syria, who died B. C. 164. The coin is the only one of the kind known to exist and for this reason its value is inestimable.

—London to-day is five times as large as it was at the opening of the present century. From 900,000 at that time the population of London grew to 1,500,000 in 1830, and by 1855 it had increased to 2,500,000. Since 1855 it has more than doubled.—Century.

—The largest reservoir or artificial lake in the world is the great tank of Dhehar, twenty miles southeast of Udaipur, Rajpootana, which covers an area of twenty-one square miles; the masonry dam is one thousand feet long by ninety-five feet high, fifty feet wide at the base, and fifteen feet at the top.

—The Russanizing of all institutions in the empire of the Czar is being pushed energetically in matters great and small. Some fifty railway employees in Warsaw, whose knowledge of Russian was considered defective, were dismissed in a holy recently. Prince Nikita of Montenegro has decreed that Russian shall be an obligatory study in every school in his little island.

—A year from next March the railroad now building from Jaffa to Jerusalem will be completed, and tourists will then be whisked away from the coast to Jerusalem in two or three hours, a journey that is now made by camel or in diligences over a horrible road. The money required to build the line is in the hands of Paris bankers, who have just forwarded the second installment of the funds to the contractors.

—The average daily supply of water delivered to London from the Thames in August last was 96,243,292 gallons; from the Lee, 59,879,696 gallons; from the spring and wells, 28,529,582 gallons; from ponds at Hampstead and Highgate, 359,339 gallons. The daily total was, therefore, 185,011,729 gallons for a population aggregating 5,671,596, representing a daily consumption per head of 32 62-100 gallons for all purposes.

—One of the least advanced races that have come down to modern times was the aboriginal race of Tasmania. There is now a Mrs. Fanny Corcoran Smith, aged fifty-seven, who claims to be the last survivor of the Tasmania people; but she is pronounced by an investigator of their history to be a half-caste. The last unquestionable Tasmanian, a woman, Truganina, died in 1876. At the close of their existence the Tasmanians had reached a degree of development hardly equal to that of the flint workers of the stone age.

—M. Freycinet, the French War Minister, has retired a lot of old Generals, and a number of dashing young Colonels will soon take their places. The oldest General in France, and probably in the world, is General Mauduit, who is one hundred years of age. He has never asked to be retired, and he still figures among the officers of the reserve. He is very proud of his St. Helena medal. Three other old fellows also wear that medal—General Melinet, born in 1798, who commanded a division of the Imperial Guard at Magenta; General Richard, born in 1795, and General d'Anthouard Vaincourt, born in 1796. They entered the service in 1813. But Mauduit's military career goes back to 1807.

## SCOT AND ENGLISHMAN.

Education Helps to Keep Alive a Species of Antagonism.

It has taken nearly two centuries to make the truth very clear; and even now there is among a few an attempt to deny it and to declare that the spirit of Scotch nationality would be purer and better without being tied to the clay of the British body. Education itself helps to keep the feeling alive. Just as every boy in the United States hates England when he reads at school of the American war of independence, and considers Bunker Hill as an undoubted victory, so every urchin in Scotland revels in visions of the heroic feats of Wallace and Bruce, and of the day when the dead Douglas won the fight at Chevy Chase, and thinks how he, too, would enjoy such days, and how easy it would be to "whip" 120,000 English with 30,000 Scots, as did the good King Robert on that morning under the hill of Stirling in 1314.

And he knows from those far-away times onward to those of which he may have heard his great-grandfather speak there were fights between Scotch armies and English armies, in which the Southron did not come off best without Scotch help, and he very rightly thinks that he could fight three Englishmen at least. That old border line was made good against the wealthier nation for a thousand years, and it could again be held if necessary. So his pride swells, and he, at all events, is not among those against whom Walter Scott wrote:

Breathes there a man with a soul so dead,  
Who never to himself hath said:  
"This is my own, my native land?"

Is it necessary to hold that border line? Some people think nowadays that they will emulate Bruce and Wallace; and because they can't get all they want in agrarian disputes and social equality, and this and that in local wrangles, the work of the eighteenth century is to be revised and the great union is to be debased and annulled for the elevation of their little selves.—Marquis of Lorne, in North American Review.

## CLEOPATRA'S COINS.

Her Portraits on Them Show Her at Different Stages of Life.

The snake chosen by Sarah Bernhardt to serve as her executioner is of the "blind-worm" species, and is known in France as an orvet. It is a pretty creature which may be often found on the tops of old walls sunning itself. The back is dark green with metallic hues that are in certain lights iridescent. Sarah's snake is called by her Iris.

Cleopatra being now a good deal before the public as a topic of theatrical interest, the Egyptian coins struck in her reign which are in the numismatic department of the National Library are gently run upon there. They show her when she was, respectively, wife and when Queen regnant. One sees her at all ages, from her early teens to almost the close of her reign. Cleopatra, on these coins and medals, is far nearer to Sarah Bernhardt than to Mrs. Langtry. She is almost spare in figure when young, and at all times lithe. The neck remained young to the last. Had she lived to fight she might have looked a little like Prince Napoleon, the mouth and chin having a Mother Hubbard tendency to meet. The full, luscious lips, resembling those of a Somali woman, do not mitigate much the hardness of the physiognomy. It is a strange countenance and one easy to read. The forehead bulges out at the eyebrows. Its prominence here gives it singular irregularity, producing the effect almost of a smaller head growing up out of a larger one. Jove was represented by Greek sculptors with such a forehead, but on a more massive scale. The eye is greatly in shadow and almost sinister, it having the expression of a snake's when a bird is to be charmed. The aquiline curve of the nose is at once strong and delicate, and the nostril is well open and finely curved.

Taken with the lips it gives an impression of a woman prone to sensual joys, cynical, fond of a cruel joke and contemptuous. Her firmly molded and advancing chin shows volition. She was willful to the last degree, and not to be turned from any purpose. The hair is dressed in the Greek manner and twisted up in a small knot on the nape of the neck. She is bad and bewitching. All the men she fascinated saw through her, but were too intoxicated by her charms to break away from her. She wore a royal diadem, which is represented on some of the coins.—Paris Cor. London Truth.

## THE WORLD'S DIAMONDS.

Peculiarities of the Industry, the Supply and Demand.

The world's stock of diamonds has increased enormously in the last fifteen years. In 1876 the output of the African mines was about 1,500,000 karats; last year it was over 4,000,000, and the great trust which controls all the principal mines asserts that it has 16,000,000 karats in sight at the present time. Meantime the demand for diamonds has greatly increased, and they are higher to-day—partly because of the trust, but also because of the increased demand—than they were a year ago.

In one respect the diamond industry is different from almost all others. Its product—that is, of gems—is never consumed. Of gold and silver a much larger amount than most people would believe is literally consumed in the arts past recovery, but a diamond once cut goes into the world's great stock and is liable to come upon the market at any time. Hence the world's annual taking of diamonds, which appears to be steadily increasing, even at advancing prices, is an index of how much of its surplus earnings it can afford to expend yearly in this particular form of luxury.

The romance of diamond mining is all gone. It is now a matter of excavating vast beds of blue clay by machinery, washing it and sifting out the diamonds, which, after being roughly sorted for size, are sold in bulk by weight. The men who do the actual work are mere laborers, and their pay is small.—Iron.

## A Dangerous Cargo.

A cargo of lime is a dangerous one. When fire, as it frequently does, catches in spite of the greatest precautions against the admission of any water into the hold, it is almost impossible to extinguish it. The only method that ever avails is to stop up every crack in the vessel with soap so that no air can reach the lime. Sometimes this stops the fire. They have been known to burn for several months. When a vessel's cargo is thus affire it is instant death to go inside of her. Some time ago the lime in a schooner off Monhegan caught affire, and she was sealed up as tightly as possible. The captain and his two sons were the crew. One day the latter went to sleep on the deck, and their father, imprudently entered the cabin, shutting the door after him. He sank down lifeless on the stairs. The boys awoke, missing their father, and supposing he had fallen overboard, sailed the schooner home, unconscious that they were bearing his dead body with them.

This excluding the air from a vessel to stop the fire suggests the method employed to free a vessel from rats. A fire is built in the cabin, and also in the hold, from some inflammable material. Then all air is excluded, and as the fires use up the oxygen, drawing it from the remote parts of the hold, the rats leave their holes and follow the precious life-giving gas to the fires which greedily devour it for their own existence and when they go out the poor rats are found dead around the stoves.—Portland Argus.

By count and estimate, it is said that a shrimp would every year produce about 6,800 eggs, a prawn 8,800, a lobster 21,600, a flounder 153,407, a mackerel 454,651, a herring 56,960, a cod 8,086,790, a ling 19,348,625. The swarm of enemies to which the eggs of fish are exposed renders necessary the production of a much larger number than are hatched and come to maturity, otherwise any species must soon become extinct.

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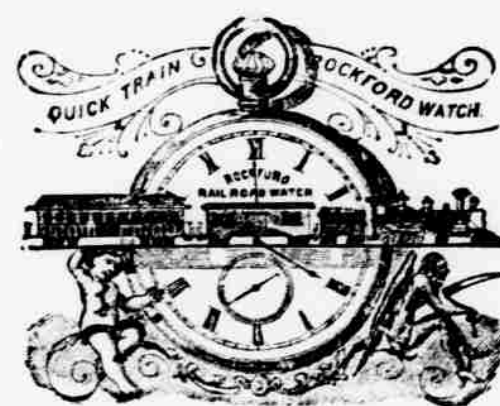
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